

ACTION  
COPY

2/6/80  
Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01  
ACTION IO-15

BUENOS 01112 062038Z

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UNCLASSIFIED

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 HA-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SR-04 RP-10  
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O R 062017Z FEB 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4161  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

BUENOS AIRES 1112

GENEVA FOR USDEL UNCHR

E.O. 12065: XDS-1 2/6/10 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) CR-M  
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: (U) REACTION TO DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON  
ARGENTINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1100

1. INITIAL SOUNDINGS IN ARGENTINA INDICATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TO CONGRESS FOR THE MOMENT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BOTH BY THE GOA AND BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.

2. A SOURCE IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE INFORMED US THAT THE DECISION TO TRANSLATE AND PUBLISH THE REPORT IN ALL NEWSPAPERS WAS TAKEN BY PRESIDENT VIDELA AFTER READING THE REPORT. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPECTED A REPORT THAT HARSHLY ATTACKED ARGENTINA. INSTEAD HE WAS SURPRISED THAT THE REPORT, WHILE RECOUNTING THE PAST, CAREFULLY SET EVENTS IN A HISTORIC CONTEXT AND NOTED THE PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PAST YEAR. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE OBJECTIONS BY SOME MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ELEMENTS TO "OTHER THINGS" THAT THE REPORT SAID, BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE REACTIONS WERE GOING TO BE MANAGEABLE THROUGH AN EDUCATION EFFORT BY THE SERVICE CHIEFS ON WHY THE GOA PUBLISHED THE REPORT. HE SAID THAT THE SERVICE CHIEFS HAD ALREADY BEEN BROUGHT IN AND ASKED TO BEGIN THE EDUCATION EFFORT.

3. AMONG HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, ONE OF THEIR MOST SENIOR AND RESPECTED STATESMAN CONGRATULATED US ON A "SERIOUS, OBJECTIVE AND TRUTHFUL REPORT." HE SAID IT SAID WHAT HAD TO BE SAID -- SOME THINGS, HE NOTED, WERE SAID FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE PUBLIC RECORD. HE ADDED HE WOULD BE REVIEWING THE REPORT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES LATER BUT DID NOT EXPECT THEIR REACTION TO BE ANY DIFFERENT THAN HIS OWN.  
CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

LOT 82D177

BOX 8114 (2/21)